

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Dec. 21, 2005

For More Information, Contact: Tim Meyer, Director Division of Emergency Medical Services North Dakota Department of Health

Phone: 701.328.2388

E-mail: tmmeyer@state.nd.us

State Health Department Recertifies Three North Dakota Hospitals as Level IV Trauma Centers

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the recertification of three hospitals as Level IV trauma centers, according to Tim Meyer, director of the department's Division of Emergency Medical Services. The hospitals are Unity Medical Center, Grafton; Jamestown Hospital, Jamestown; and First Care Health Center, Park River.

The Department of Health is authorized to designate hospitals in North Dakota as Level IV and Level V trauma centers. Level I, II and III trauma centers are designated by the American College of Surgeons. To receive a Level IV designation, a hospital is visited by a trauma site review team, which reports to the State Trauma Committee. The Committee reviews the site visit report, determines the hospital's designation, and reports to the Department of Health.

Level I through V trauma centers must be able to accept and provide services to major trauma patients. Among the requirements necessary to earn a Level IV designation, the trauma center must have on call an emergency room physician who has completed advanced-trauma lifesupport training. North Dakota currently has 20 Level IV trauma centers, which must seek renewal of the designation every one to three years.

For more information, contact Tim Meyer, Division of Emergency Medical Services, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2388.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200 E-mail: health@state.nd.us Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727